

REMARKS

I. Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-27 are pending in the subject application and are subject to restriction. The examiner requires restriction to one of the following inventions for prosecution in this application:

Group I, including claims 1-9 and 25, directed to a modified, trans-excision-splicing group I ribozyme;

Group II, including claim2 10-24, 26 and 27, directed to a method of removing non-native nucleotide sequence from a target sequence.

In the Official Action the Examiner takes the position that because the two inventions are related as product and process, they are distinct inventions. The Examiner further asserts that it would be an undue burden to search both inventions because different key words would be required, which would further necessitate searching different databases. However, it is respectfully submitted that the search required for examination of the claims of group I would necessarily include subject matter related to the examination of the methods of using the claimed ribosome (Group II). Although further searching may be required to exam the process claims of group II, it would not be considered a serious search burden.

Accordingly, the restriction requirement is respectfully traversed.

Applicant acknowledges the policy of rejoinder of previously restricted product and process claims upon allowance of the product claims.

II. Notice to Comply with Sequence Requirements

Changes have been made to the specification on pages 6-9, 20-21 and 25-29 to insert and amend the format of sequence identifiers. New sequence identifiers have been added for SEQ ID NOS:9-21 corresponding to sequences in the figures 2,3, 6 and 7 and in the specification. The specification is further corrected and a substitute Sequence Listing (SEQ ID NOS: 1-21) is herein submitted to comply with the requirements of an application containing a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821 - 1.825.

Hereto is an attached substitute Sequence Listing in paper and computer readable format.
The paper copy and computer readable copy of the substitute Sequence Listing are the same.
The substitute Sequence Listing does not include new matter.

CONCLUSION

Entry of the Response to the Restriction Requirement and substitute Sequence Listing and favorable consideration are respectfully believed to be in order and respectfully requested. However, if any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned so the prosecution may be expedited.

To the extent necessary, please grant any extension of time deemed necessary for entry of this communication. Please charge any deficient fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account 500417.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY LLP

Date: June 29, 2005

By:

Kelli N. Watson
Kelli N. Watson

Registration No. 47,170

600 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3096
(202) 756-8351 (Direct)
(202) 756-8087 (Facsimile)